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McCarthy Seeks Full CIA Probe

HT-Forum News Service
WASHINGTON — Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, D-Minn., said Friday he would propose in



the next session of Congress a "full and complete investigation" of the Central Intelligence Agency by a select committee of the Senate.

The proposal appeared to go beyond previous suggestions, by Sen. McCarthy and other lawmakers, that a "watchdog" committee be established to oversee operations of the CIA.

Sen. McCarthy called for a one-year probe by a nine-member special Senate committee that would recommend possible changes in both the operation of the agency and its "supervision."

The select committee could, for example, recommend establishment of a permanent watchdog committee.

"The role of the CIA in the Dominican Republic, Viet Nam, Cuba and a number of other critical areas has raised serious questions about the relationship of the agency to the process of making and directing foreign policy," Sen. McCarthy said.

He said he planned to introduce a resolution establishing the select committee "to make a full and complete investigation and study of the Central Intelligence Agency and to report its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later than Jan-

uary 31, 1967."

"It is necessary that the CIA have the full confidence and understanding of the Congress," he said.

"Except for the CIA, federal agencies are regularly subject to ... review principally on a year to year basis," he said. "Because of the necessity for secrecy in the work of the CIA, the normal procedure of Congress for review cannot be applied."

Congress in 1956 rejected a proposal sponsored by Sen. Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., for a joint watchdog committee to keep an eye on the intelligence agency.

Since that time the proposal has been periodically revived, but never passed. In 1963, Sen. McCarthy proposed creation of both a select committee and a watchdog group.

The executive branch — under Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson has resisted formation of a congressional watchdog group, as has the CIA itself.

Opponents of such a measure argue that existing shadowy committees of the House and Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees provide sufficient control over the CIA.

The CIA also is said to fear that secrets would leak from a formal congressional committee.

Sen. McCarthy is a critic of the intelligence agency, and unsuccessfully opposed the nomination of John A. McCone as CIA director in 1961, after the Bay of Pigs disaster.

However, President Johnson has taken pains to keep the Minnesota Democrat briefed on CIA affairs.

Johnson also told Sen. McCarthy in advance that he would name Adm. William F. Raborn as CIA director, and the President invited the senator to the ranch to meet the admiral prior to the public announcement last April.

At that time, Sen. McCarthy endorsed the competence of both Adm. Raborn and the agency's new deputy director, Richard M. Helms, but said the question of CIA's relationship with Congress was still "unanswered."

Friday, the senator said there is "some evidence" that CIA had "expanded" its statutory role of gathering intelligence into "broader fields."

He said "the CIA was established 20 years ago, and it is necessary that there be a congressional review."

He added: "Because there has been no formal review of the activities of the CIA by members of Congress, it has not been possible to determine the validity of the criticisms or to prevent distortions or to dispel rumors."

Congressional resistance to tightening the reins on CIA has been stiffened by the fact that the nation is fighting a war in Viet Nam and by Communist bloc criticism of the operations of the intelligence agency.

The CIA recently claimed to Congress that the Soviet Union has a "department of disinformation" which works to discredit the agency and other U.S. agencies.

On the other hand, McCarthy is known to feel that the climate for a congressional look at CIA may be right because of increasing public concern over activities of the intelligence agency.

Beginning with the Bay of Pigs in 1961, there have been a series of incidents involving the agency, including recent episodes in Singapore and the Dominican Republic.

These in turn have led to renewed proposals in the press and in Congress for tighter control over the agency.

The female plant of the marijuana species is deadlier than the male.